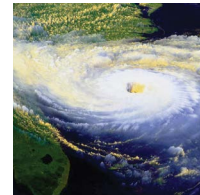




HURRICANES/TROPICAL STORMS

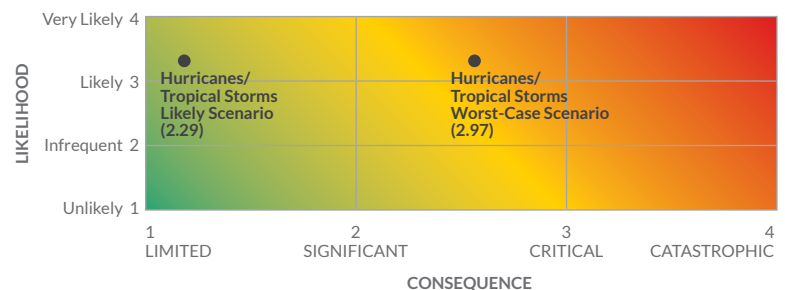


Hurricanes, tropical storms, and typhoons are collectively known as tropical cyclones. NOAA defines a tropical cyclone as a “warm-core non-frontal synoptic-scale cyclone, originating over tropical or subtropical waters, with organized deep convection and a closed surface wind circulation about a well-defined center.”

HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

According to federal databases, 13 named tropical cyclones passed close enough to impact Howard County between 1950 and 2008, only one of which reached hurricane strength. Since that data was collected, three other tropical storms have impacted Howard County (Irene and Lee in 2011 and Sandy in 2012).

RISK MATRIX



WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

There is an expected **11-30% Annual Likelihood** of a Hurricane/Tropical Storm hazard in Howard County. In the most likely Hurricane/Tropical Storm hazard scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant**. In the worst-case scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Significant-Critical**.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A Hurricane requires a maximum sustained wind speed of 74 mph or higher. A storm with sustained winds between 39-73 mph is considered a Tropical Storm.
- Hurricane Sandy (2012) caused an estimated \$5 million in property damage in Maryland.
- The right-front quadrant of the storm contains the highest winds, seas, and storm surge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment readyhoco.com/hazards
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, nhc.noaa.gov
- Ready.gov, ready.gov/hurricanes

LOCAL RISK OVERVIEW

Future Likelihood	Likely-Very Likely 11-30+% chance of annual occurrence	
Impact	MOST-LIKELY	WORST-CASE
	Limited-Significant	Significant-Critical
Risk Score	2.29	2.97
Risk Ranking (High to Low)	Ranked #3 of 10 natural hazards.	

HURRICANES/TROPICAL STORMS IMPACT

Where no Worst-Case bar is visible, Worst-Case impact is equivalent to Likely Impact

